

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Joseph Kinsella on 8 February 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended): An installation for treating articles comprising:
 - a) at least one treatment zone into which the articles are introduced; and
 - b) a conveying means, with which the articles may be conveyed through the installation in a continuous or intermittent translational movement and which comprises:
 - at least one pair of transport carriages, which in turn comprises:
 - a first transport carriage comprising:
 - a running gear; and
 - at least one swivel arm, which is connected with the running gear to be swivellable about a first pivot pin and with which a first point of a supporting structure for the article to be treated is connected to be swivellable about a second pivot pin; and
 - a second transport carriage, which likewise comprises:
 - a running gear; and
 - at least one swivel arm, which is connected with the running gear to be swivellable about a first pivot pin and with which a second point of

the supporting structure is connected to be swivellable about a second pivot pin;

wherein

c) a means for positioning the at least one pair of transport carriages comprising comprises the following six degrees of freedom of motion:

- a translational movement of the first transport carriage;
- a translational movement of the second transport carriage;
- a swivelling of the at least one swivel arm of the first transport carriage about the first pivot pin thereof;
- a swivelling of the at least one swivel arm of the second transport carriage about the first pivot axis thereof;
- a swivelling of the supporting structure about the second pivot pin of the first transport carriage; and
- a swiveling of the supporting structure about the [[a]] second pivot pin of the second transport carriage; and,

d) drives are provided for at least three of the six degrees of freedom of motion ~~movement~~, and at least one of the drives is a translational drive.

2. (previously presented): The installation of claim 1 wherein drives are provided for four degrees of freedom of motion, and at least one of the drives is actuated by a control means which is compatible with the drives of the other degrees of freedom of motion.

3. (currently amended): The installation of claim 1 wherein both the first and second transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages comprise the [[a]] translational drive.

4. (currently amended): The installation of claim 2 wherein one of the first or second transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages comprises a ~~translational drive and a drive is provided which varies a spacing between the first and second transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages.~~

5. (previously presented): The installation of claim 4 wherein the drive provided which varies the spacing is a spindle drive.

6. (previously presented): The installation of claim 1 wherein all the drives for all the degrees of freedom of motion are arranged on one of the transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages.

7. (previously presented): The installation of claim 1 wherein the drives for the degrees of freedom of motion are distributed between the first and second transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages.

8. (currently amended): The installation of claim 1 wherein the treatment zone comprises a dipping tank for electrophoretic dip coating, wherein one of the first or second transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages effects a connection between a pole of a voltage source and the article to be coated, while the other of the first or second transport carriages of the at least one pair of transport carriages effects a connection between an opposite pole of the [[a]] voltage source and an auxiliary electrode carried inside the article to be coated.

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: heading labeled Fig. 4 is needed for Fig.4. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Because the prior art references do not disclose in an installation for treating articles the recited at least one pair of transport carriages with the recited means and drives in combination with other recited structures as claimed in claims 1-8.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

The **year** of the foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on which priority is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55 is **incorrect**.

5. Applicant is now required to submit a substitute declaration or oath to correct the deficiencies set forth in this communication. The substitute oath or declaration must be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability" (PTO-37). Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136. Failure to timely file the substitute declaration (or oath) will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application. The transmittal letter accompanying the declaration (or oath) should indicate the date of the "Notice of Allowance" (PTOL-85) and the application number in the upper right hand corner.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (571) 272-1339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kishor Mayekar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795